

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital camera for:
providing digital images of optical images, the camera comprising;
an intermediate memory for storing said digital images;
a display for providing a visual display of said digital images stored in said intermediate memory;
long-term image memory for storing a plurality of digital images; and
a controller for selecting digital images from said intermediate memory and storing said selected digital images in said long-term image memory.
2. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said controller further comprises:
a manual input device for providing user selection of said digital images that are to be stored in said long-term image memory from the intermediate memory .
3. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said long-term image memory comprises:
a removable consumable digital media.
4. The digital camera according to claim 1 wherein said intermediate memory is organized to provide selective transfer or First-In First-Out (FIFO) transfer of images to said long-term image memory or both.
5. The digital camera of claim 4 wherein said controller automatically stores one or more intermediate memory digital images in said long-term image memory in response to a capture of a subsequent digital image when it is determined that room needs to be created in said intermediate memory to store the subsequent digital image.
6. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said intermediate memory automatically overwrites one or more of said digital images in said intermediate memory with a subsequently acquired digital image.

7. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said intermediate memory stores a plurality of digital images and said controller is configured to select ones of said digital images in said intermediate memory for long-term storage in said long-term image memory; and

wherein storage space in said intermediate memory that was previously occupied by said selected ones of said digital images is made available for the storage of subsequent captured digital images.

8. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said controller is responsive to detecting an erasable type of said long-term image memory and wherein said controller automatically stores said digital images into said long-term image memory.

9. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said intermediate memory stores a plurality of digital images in a First-In, First-Out (FIFO) arrangement whereby, upon said intermediate memory becoming filled, prior to storage of a subsequent digital image into said intermediate memory, a number of oldest ones of said digital images in said intermediate memory are automatically stored into said long-term image memory to make required space available for said subsequent digital image .

10. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said controller initiates processing to prepare for removing said long-term image memory from said digital camera including transfer of said digital image from said intermediate memory into said long-term image memory.

11. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said controller is selectively operable to transfer a digital image from said intermediate memory to said long-term image memory or to a communications port providing connectivity with remote external memory or to both.

12. The digital camera of claim 1 further comprising:
a sensor for detecting an attempt to remove said long-term image memory from said digital camera; and
means for processing a digital image stored in said intermediate memory to indefinitely retain said image in said intermediate memory.

13. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said long-term image memory is a replaceable memory module.

14. The digital camera of claim 13 wherein said replaceable memory module comprises a consumable digital medium.

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15. A method of processing a digital image, comprising:
storing said digital image in an intermediate memory;
displaying a visual image of said digital image in said intermediate memory; and
selectively storing said digital image to a long-term image memory from said
intermediate memory.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising:
compressing said digital image in said intermediate memory prior to selectively
storing said digital image to said long-term image memory.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising:
recognizing said long-term image memory as non-erasable.

18. A digital image capture system comprising:
- sensor means for providing a digital image of an optical image;
 - first storage means for storing said digital image;
 - display means for providing a visual display of said digital image in said first storage means;
 - second storage means for storing a plurality of digital images; and
 - control means for selecting digital images in said first storage means for storage in said second storage means.